

Remarks and Arguments

Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action dated November 2, 2004 and the references cited therein. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Applicants have amended the specification to include the serial numbers of the copending patent applications referenced in the Related Application section of the subject application.

Claims 1-12 and 14-19 are currently pending.

Claim 13 has been previously canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 14-19 are allowed.

Applicants and their Attorney acknowledge and are grateful for the Examiner's allowance of claims 14-19. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the following regarding claims 1-12.

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, data streamed between the server and the client processes in a conference may use the Real-Time Protocol (RTP), an industry standard protocol for real-time transmission of packets containing data such as audio or video. Each RTP packet received by the server from a client process has a RTP packet header that includes a source identifier. The client process places this source identifier in the packet header prior to transmission to the server. The continual switching by the server among audio data streams from client processes participating in the conference presents a problem for certain types of H.323 clients. Specifically, a non-multipoint H.323 client can only conduct communications with another H.323 client. The present invention overcomes this limitation by manipulating the source identifier (SSRC) in the RTP packet header prior to transmitting outbound packet streams from the server to a receiving H.323 client conference participant. For example, with reference to Figure 4 of the subject invention, the server 300, specifically the MMP 304, replaces the SSRC value in the packet header of each packet with its own SSRC information prior to transmitting the packet stream to the H.323 client process. As a result, the H.323 client process is spoofed into believing it is communicating with a single H.323 client, instead of the conference server which is

selectively multiplexing audio streams from multiple participating client processes in the conference.

Claims 1, 4 and 10 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent 6,240,070, Kozdon et al., hereafter Kozdon, already of record, in view of newly cited U.S. Patent No. 6, 598,172, VanDeusen et al., hereafter VanDeusen. Claims 1, 4 and 10 have now been amended to highlight the above-described aspect of the invention. Specifically, claim 1 recites a method for enabling audio conferencing comprising “*replacing the source identifier* of the packet headers in the active stream of audio packets with a *source identifier associated with the server*” (claim 1, lines 12-14, *emphasis added*). In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner has expressly admitted that Kozdon does not explicitly teach modifying the source identifier of the packet headers in the active stream of audio packets. The Examiner has not indicated where there exists a disclosure, teaching, or suggestion of such limitation in VanDuesen. Accordingly, claim 1, as amended, is believed patentable over Kozdon and VanDuesen, whether considered singularly, or in combinations. Claims 2-3 include all of the limitations of claim 1 and are likewise believed patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the merits of their own respective limitations.

Claims 4, 7 and 10 have been amended to include limitations language similar to claim 1. Computer program product claim 4 and data signal claim 7 now each recite “program code for replacing the source identifier of the packet headers in the active stream of audio packets with a source identifier associated with the server” (claim 4, lines 12-14; claim 7, lines 10-12). Similarly, apparatus claim 10 now recites program logic configured to replace the source identifier of the packet headers in the active stream of audio packets with a source identifier associated with the server (claim 10, lines 11-13). Accordingly, claims 4, 7 and 10, along with their respective dependant claims, are likewise believed patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the merits of their own respective limitations.

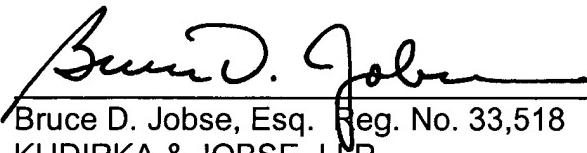
In addition, Applicants respectfully traverse the various rejections of the dependent claims on the additional grounds that the Examiner has failed to demonstrate where the prior art reference (or references when combined) disclose

some suggestion or motivation to modify the Kozdon reference or combine the Kozdon and VanDeusen references with any of the Foster et al., Oran, or Bruno et al. references, and, therefore, has failed to create *l a prima facie* case of obviousness in accordance with MPEP §2143.03.

Applicant respectfully reasserts all of the arguments and traversals set forth in prior responses to the extent still relevant to the outstanding rejections.

Applicants believe the claims are in allowable condition. A notice of allowance for this application is solicited earnestly. If the Examiner has any further questions regarding this amendment, he/she is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the number listed below. The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any balances under 37 CFR §1.17, and 1.16 to Deposit Account No. DA-12-2158.

Respectfully submitted,


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